

# THE AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 20, 1858.

"THE UNION OF THE UNIONISTS, FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNION!"

Respectfully announce to our friends in Congress that we are prepared to print Speeches, and will do so upon the usual terms; that is, for an eight page speech, 50 cents per hundred. In 16 pages, \$1.

Brother Editors, will you do us the favor to let your readers know that there is an American paper published at the Federal City?

The spleen exhibited by the Union within a few days past, may be accounted for by the fact that the administration see that Leocompton is dead, and they are defeated.

Kansas.—The Leavenworth correspondent of the St. Louis Leader says that the Free-State vote for delegates to the Constitutional Convention in that city amounted to 650, against 1,196 polled for State officers on January the 4th.

Michigan papers say that during the year ending on the 20th of February, neither life nor limb has been sacrificed on the Michigan Southern Railroad.

The New York Tribune informs us that a brisk religious revival is in progress in that city and in the surrounding country. We know of no place where an event of the kind is more needed, except, perhaps, Washington or Boston.

The whole amount appropriated for the State expenses of Pennsylvania for the ensuing year, is \$3,044,400, of which \$2,000,000 is for interest on the State debt, and \$254,980 for the maintenance of the canals.

A bill has been passed by the Senate of Massachusetts instructing the Senators and requesting the Representatives in Congress from that State to aid in securing indemnity to citizens of Massachusetts for French spoliation prior to the year 1800.

Mexico.—By accounts from the Capital of this Republic to the 6th instant, it does not appear that affairs there have in any way improved. The "Extraordinary" of the 4th represents the country to be in a most deplorable condition. The Zolaga Government seems to be powerless to establish order. A desperate conflict was expected to take place about the 6th or 7th instant at Celaya, the government forces and the opposition, being about equal as to forces, each having some 6,000 troops. There was no hope of peace for a long time.

Riot in New York.—New York, March 18. This morning a man was run over and killed by the Hudson river railroad train on 11th avenue. This caused a riot among the Irish laborers. The police were sent to the spot, but were beaten off with stones. The rioters were five hundred strong. Another passing train was attacked by a shower of stones, but no serious injury was done. At two o'clock quiet had been restored.

## "HOW NOT TO DO IT."

Mr. Speaker Orr has completely accomplished what Mr. Barnard of the Circumlocution office tried so hard to do, namely, to find how not to do it; [any business for those who had business with the office or demands upon the government.]

In the appointment of the select committee of 15, ordered by the House to investigate and report all the facts relating to the formation of the Leocompton constitution, Mr. Orr solved the problem, HOW NOT TO DO IT.

## "THE BALANCE."

The vote of the Baltimore delegation was, for sustaining Mr. Stirling's decision, Alexander, Groves, and Kennard; the balance of the representatives of Baltimore voted with the Democrats, and this defeated the bill. Mr. Harrington, previous to taking the vote, took up his hat and coat, and left the House.—Balt. Clipper.

That is to say, the five dishes, the scales, the equities, the equilibrium, "voted with the Democrats." Mercy on us!

## INFAMOUS AND HUMILIATING.

STOPPING THE CHICAGO TIMES.—The stampede among the subscribers of the Chicago Times is awful. Since Dr. Lieb, General Post Office Agent, commenced marking, for proffered, the Postmasters who gave circulation to the Chicago Times, the stampede among its subscribers is passing all belief. In many offices where a month ago twenty-five copies of the Chicago Times were taken, we understand from the Buchanan men, there is not now a single copy taken.

They swear in their wrath, that they are going to put the Times Office into that eighteen foot coffin that was made for Long John on the eve of the late election.—Chicago Democrat.

[From the Republic.] In his speech in the Senate, March 12, after quoting that part of the Constitution of Minnesota which gives the right of suffrage to unqualified foreigners, Mr. Kennedy said, as officially reported in the Globe:

"It is in direct contravention of every notion of mine in regard to the doctrine of our Government. I deny, that the Minnesota Constitution is IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH BOTH THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES IN THIS RESPECT."

"We think that Mr. Kennedy is entirely in error in his view of the Constitution of the United States; and that the question of suffrage is exclusively a State question, not controlled by the national laws."

Then we would recommend our neighbor to read Mr. Madison's reasons for putting this subject in the Constitution, and Mr. Calhoun's and Mr. Clay's unanswerable arguments against the right of the States to allow aliens to vote.

## THE ELECTION RIOT.

Hon. Humphrey Marshall, of Kentucky, on Monday proposed a resolution in the House of Representatives calling for a select committee to inquire into the use of the military, by order of the President, in quelling the election riots on the first Monday in June last. The House refused to consider the resolution, or the memorial from the citizens of Washington, upon which it was based. There were fourteen persons killed and mortally wounded in the massacre of "Bloody Monday," and sixteen wounded, not mortally. No real investigation of the facts has been had, and nobody indicated for this wholesale murder, and yet, when the citizens of Washington ask an investigation by Congress, they are refused a hearing! What a pity we were not in Kansas, for then we should be sure of the support of at least one portion of the House.

## MR. CRITTENDEN.

Thank God there are a few, a very few, old statesmen left in Congress; those who were upon the stage of action in "the better days of the Republic"—in the glorious days of the Clay's, the Webster's, the Calhoun's, the Preston's, and even the Lowndes'; and who whose name stands at the head of this article stands at the head of these. Age, experience in public life, long service in the Senate, and in the Cabinet, eminent abilities, unrivalled powers of oratory, manliness of character, an integrity unimpaired, and high and lofty aims as a statesman, combine to place Mr. Crittenden in the front rank of American statesmen, and to give a weight to his opinions, and a force to his words which none can or are disposed to question. Such being the character and position of Mr. C., and besides, belonging neither to the Democratic nor to the Republican party, the course he might think proper to take in regard to the admission of Kansas under the Leocompton Constitution, has been a matter of anxious speculation and inquiry; he has, however, deemed it proper to keep his own counsel until the time should come for him to express his views publicly on the floor of the Senate; carefully examining the subject, meantime, so as to arrive at a just conclusion in regard to the whole matter. He has now spoken; and words of wisdom have flowed from his lips.

As Mr. CRITTENDEN obtained the floor at the close of the session on Tuesday, it was known that he would speak at one o'clock the next day; and accordingly the galleries were crowded at an early hour, and when the time arrived, it appeared as if a quorum of the House of Representatives were present as listeners; and seldom have we seen so attentive, and apparently interested an audience. It reminded us of the scenes of 1850, when Mr. Clay put forth, for several successive months, his giant powers, renovated, it seemed, for the occasion, but exhausted by the superhuman effort and labor—a tax upon his physical powers which finally bore him to his grave. We shall not go into an analysis of Mr. CRITTENDEN'S speech, because we intend to publish it entire, and because we doubt not it will be read by every man who has sense enough to form an opinion. Suffice it to say, it was worthy of his palmy days, and called forth from the lips of many the enthusiastic exclamation, "he is indeed 'THE SOBEREST ROMAN OF THEM ALL'!"

He opposed the admission of Kansas under the Leocompton Constitution, upon the ground that the people of that Territory had never been permitted to "govern themselves," or to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way; that fraud had been practised upon them from the very beginning; that no election had been free from fraud and violence; that they had had no voice in forming the Leocompton Constitution, and were not to be permitted to have any. That the schedule to that Constitution provided the means of committing fraud upon them, and that the whole political power had been placed with that view in the hands of one man, (Calhoun), and he one of the authors of the fraud that had already been perpetrated! That the people were not allowed to vote for or against the Constitution, but only to vote for it with slavery, or without slavery; and not even to do this without first taking an oath to support that Constitution! A most unheard of condition!

Such being the case, Mr. C. declared that he would not be instrumental in imposing any such Constitution upon any people, especially upon those who protested against it as obnoxious and hateful to them.

What the effect of Mr. C.'s speech may be, remains to be tested; but, from the long faces of the Leocomptonites who listened to it, we should infer that they considered it as exceedingly damaging; and we cannot but think that its influence upon the public mind in Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, will be very great.

P. S. Since the above was written, Mr. TOMES replied to Mr. CRITTENDEN, and the latter rejoined. We did not hear Mr. TOMES'S speech, but understand that he strongly intimated that the rejection of the Leocompton Constitution would be the cause of a disruption of the Union. In his rejoinder, Mr. CRITTENDEN took the lofty stand of a patriot, placing himself above all parties and partisan influences. He thought his age and his long services warranted him, when he took his seat in the Senate, in disconnecting himself with parties, and in looking solely to the great interests and welfare of his country. He was a citizen of the United States; and, as such, it became him to know no section nor party. [Applause in the galleries.]

We regretted that the subject of slavery was made an incident of this debate. It really formed no legitimate element of the Kansas discussion, which he had hoped would be conducted on high considerations of equality and political justice. He was a Southern man, and always desired to see his section in the right. So feeling, he was constrained in the pending issue to advise that which seemed to him right as a true citizen of the South, and at the same time as a loyal citizen of the United States. He prayed that the South might ever bask in the sunshine of prosperity, and that peace might reign and reign throughout all the land.

Mr. BETA then took the floor, and spoke with great earnestness and ability in reply to Mr. TOMES. His speech was lengthy, but every line will be found marked with power, and pregnant with lofty sentiments.

Messrs. CRITTENDEN and BETA must necessarily vote with the Republican Senators; but while they do, they are no more to be classed with that party than with the Democratic party.

## BUSINESS, BUSINESS.

The business men of the country are becoming impatient at the delay of business which the Kansas question is causing, and are writing, imploring, and censuring letters to members and others, to get this all-absorbing subject out of the way as soon as possible, and then to turn their attention to the financial and industrial condition of the country. Commerce, they say, is prostrate; the manufacturing interests of the country are suffering; business of all kinds is stagnant; money abundant, but no confidence is gone; and there can be little hope of a favorable change until Congress shall adopt some measure of measures of relief. What these must be, or what they ought to be, we shall not now undertake to discuss; but we will just intimate that one great measure of relief would be the prevention of frauds

upon the revenue by the foreign importers, which have been reduced to a regular system, and which are equally injurious to the National Treasury, to the honest American importer, to the manufacturers of the country, and to the cotton planter.

We say that the frauds committed upon the revenue under the present laws for valuing foreign imports, have been reduced to a system. It is a regular practice in France, Spain, England, and all other foreign countries, for the seller of goods to make out two bills for them, one at the real price paid for them, and another at about three-fifths of that price, the latter to be presented at the custom-house, for the duties to be paid upon. A friend of ours being in Paris last fall, bought a gold watch, the price of which was, say one hundred dollars; it being for a friend, he had it packed with other purchases he had made, to be sent over in a steamer. Understanding this, the person of whom he purchased the watch, handed him, after receiving his bill, another bill of sale, calling the watch sixty dollars. Not understanding what this meant, the purchaser inquired, when he was told that it was to enable him to avoid paying the full duties. Our friend replied that he was not in the habit of taking a false oath for the purpose of cheating his own government out of a small amount of revenue. The seller of the watch felt the rebuke, but excused himself by saying that it was the custom to give such false bills of sale to those who purchased goods to be shipped to the United States.

We could relate a similar case where sugar was the article purchased, and Havana was the place of purchase; and indeed several cases, happening in different foreign countries, have come to our knowledge, showing that it is a universal practice in every foreign country to cheat and defraud the revenue of the United States, and that all understand how it is to be done.

This system of fraud and cheating can be broken up and prevented, by laying specific duties upon all foreign articles, or by establishing a home valuation of all foreign merchandise, requiring duties to be paid upon the actual wholesale market price of every article in this country. If this remedy were applied to the present crying evil, the honest importer would stand some chance along side of the dishonest one; and without raising duties at all, the enforcement of their full and just payment, would afford the American manufacturer some protection against the fraudulent competition of the foreign manufacturer, and infuse new life and activity into our manufacturing establishments. Until something of this kind is done, we can scarcely expect a restoration of prosperity and activity in the manufacturing, trading, and commercial departments of industry.

Without advocating high duties, as Americans, we are in favor of fostering and encouraging our own industry, and of producing for ourselves, as far as possible, that which we eat, drink, wear, and use. When Kansas is gotten out of the way, we hope members will turn their attention to those matters which come home to men's business and bosoms.

## GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES—THE TWO SYSTEMS.

The recent sudden and unexpected change in the British ministry, illustrates the mode in which political changes are brought about in that country, and the difference between that government and our own.

Here no political change can be effected in the administration, except at stated periods of four years, no matter how unpopular that administration may be, or how little confidence the people have in it, and even then only through great exertions, large expenditures of money, the scattering broadcast over the whole Union of documents and speeches, lies and lampoons, and the enlisting of armies of "stump-speakers" and peripatetic orators fired with patriotism, trifling of brimstone, and surcharged with virtuous indignation, whose special and disinterested duty it is to enlighten "the most enlightened people on earth" in regard to public affairs—all of which has been talked over, and over, and over two hundred and ninety four times (the number of Senators and Representatives in Congress) every year for four years at least—and to inform the people that they are now passing through "a great crisis"—perhaps the most important that ever arose in this Republic, and that if they would preserve and perpetuate the sacred legacy of liberty which their fathers left them, they must bear themselves, put on their armor, take the field, perform wonders, and—note right!

Well, after two or three great national conventions have been held, as many "Platforms" manufactured which are to override the constitution, the presidential candidates have all been nominated and placed on their respective "platforms," and some of them have even disappeared in it; and after the respective armies of "stump orators" have perambulated the country like wandering Jews, and stirred up the people to fever-heat by infusing into their bosoms their own patriotic fervor, and after tons of paper and hogheads of ink have been expended to enlighten, as we said, "this most wonderfully enlightened people," then comes the voting, which finishes the battle. And then, perhaps, there has been a change of men and a change of policy effected, perhaps not; rather often not.

This is the way seed things; now let us see how they are done in England; how they were lately done there. An administration, or, as they call it, the Ministry, conduct the government and are responsible to the country, or the country's representatives, the House of Commons. If they adopt any measure which the majority of the House of Commons disapprove, or an important and ministerial one, or if they fall in the opinion of a majority of that body to maintain and uphold the honor, interests, and dignity of the nation, either in war or peace, and the House of Commons so expresses its judgment of Ministers, the latter at once resign their official stations, and allow the sovereign to send for some person, usually the great leader of the party that found itself in a majority in the House, and he is requested to form a new Ministry of which he, of course, is to be premier, or the head.

All this may be effected, and often is, without a dozen speeches being made; certainly with less than a thousandth part of the oratory that has been called forth by the Kansas question, without any corresponding result.

Now, we presume that no man, no citizen of this country, will deny that our system of doing things is vastly the best; because things are more permanent and stable here. The people and Congress may both condemn and

denounce the President to their hearts' content, and yet he is no danger of being removed; he may laugh at both, and jog on just as he pleases, and then, when the time comes to change, by a judicious and unscrupulous use of the public patronage—the giving out of offices, contracts, advertising, &c., &c., he can, four times out of five, secure the success of his own party, no matter how grossly it may have abused the confidence of the people, disregarded the true interests of the nation, and violated the pledges made in its "platforms." Surely there is no question but that our system is the best. What Democrat in the Union will not say so?

## CORRUPT OR.

The investigations that have been going on here and elsewhere, by special committees, to discover and expose the corrupt appliances that are alleged to have been used in procuring the passage of laws, and also the reported peouplings and "stealings" by those in office, can scarcely fail to have a beneficial effect, even if the guilty escape the exposure and punishment they so richly deserve; because it will show that such rascality as has brought a stigma upon Congress and upon some of the State legislatures, and has been committed by the incumbents of office, cannot always exist with impunity, nor stalk abroad in open day with brazen faces and golden chains, the product of such "stealings."

The testimony elicited in the Lawrence & Stone case, the refusal of Wolcott to tell "the whole truth," his imprisonment for contempt, the refusal of Williamson, of N. Y., to obey the order of the House, and his being indicted therefor, will all go to show that there is a power that can investigate such matters and compel witnesses to attend and testify, or inflict punishment upon them for not doing so; and this fact will operate as a caution to those, hereafter, who may be found to deal in corruption, or to pilfer and steal while in office, as it is alleged some folks have, even though it has been done so cunningly as to defy detection even by persevering grand juries.

## SOUND DOCTRINE.

It is refreshing in these days of new-fangled constitutional notions, political absurdities, insane vagaries, and modern monstrosities, when men who have been pegging away at old shams, tinkering worn-out brass-kettles and tin-pans, or hammering horse-shoes all their lives, assume the province of well-read statesmen and profound jurists, to tell us, with oracular wisdom, what is, and what is not constitution, and to deal out the law and the gospel "like one having authority, and not as the Scribes;" to meet with such sentiments and doctrines as are put forth in the following article, which we copy from the Frankfort, Kentucky, Commonwealth, not being favored with an exchange with the Memphis Eagle and Enquirer, in which the article originally appeared:

"In all the discussions which may arise upon the political questions of the day, says the Memphis Eagle and Enquirer, we shall steadily keep in view that which appears to us the greatest interest of every true American—the consolidation of our Union, in which is involved our prosperity, felicity, safety, and, we firmly believe, our national existence. Without a union of the States there can be neither prosperity nor safety in the States. Here is the law propounded by America's greatest statesman, which we fully recognize and endorse."

"1. That the Constitution of the United States is not a league, confederacy, compact between the people of the several States in their sovereign capacities, but a Government proper, founded on the adoption of the people, and creating direct relations between itself and individuals."

"2. That no State has power to dissolve these relations; that nothing can dissolve them but revolution, and that, consequently, there can be no such thing as secession without revolution."

"3. That there is a supreme law, consisting of the Constitution of the United States, and acts of Congress passed in pursuance of it, and treaties; and that, in cases not capable of assuming the character of a suit in law or equity, Congress must judge, and finally interpret the supreme law so as to give it effect, and to pass acts of legislation; and in cases capable of assuming, and actually assuming, the character of a suit, the Supreme Court of the United States is the final interpreter."

"4. That an attempt by a State to abrogate, annul, or nullify an act of Congress, or to arrest its operation within her limits, on the ground that, in her opinion, such law is unconstitutional, is a direct usurpation of the equal rights of the General Government, and on the equal rights of the States; a plain violation of the Constitution, and a proceeding eminently revolutionary in its character and tendency."

"The opponents of these principles are the enemies of all free government, for upon them hinge our State and national institutions. These are the principles of Unionists North and South, and to depart from them is to weaken the bonds which hold us together."

## WE ARE TO BE GREAT BOASTERS.

A fast people—vain-glorious, extravagant, ostentatious, and conceited. But have we not reason to boast? Have we not one of the biggest countries in the world?—the biggest mountains, lakes, rivers and prairies? Have we not a Congress that can out-talk all creation? Stump orators that beat Demosthenes, Cicero, Cato, and all those old fellows who are so celebrated for their long-winded talking power? Have we not women, too, who can challenge the world for beauty and industry? In what other country than this do the ladies sweep the streets of the great cities with silken brooms, made of the richest and most costly imported materials, and think nothing of it? And where in all the civilized world can women be found who so industriously show off the skill and taste of their mantua-makers, and make known the perfection which foreign manufacturers have attained in the fabrication of silks, satins, laces, jewelry, &c., &c.? Now, considering all this, what can our grand old Mr. Stirling mean for speaking as he does, below:

"EXTRAVAGANCE AND DRESS.—Mr. Stirling, in his recently published book of travels in the United States, thus compliments our American ladies on their extravagance in dress:

"The ladies of New Orleans, like their sisters of New York, are great dressers; indeed, the dress of American women generally, at least of the more rich class, is something fabulous in expense, taking into consideration the rank and fortune of the wearers and their husbands. The dress of ladies in New Orleans is, as I am informed by New Orleans people, often equal in richness and expense to those of our crowned heads in Europe."

"What do you think of a crocodile lady's dress powdered over with diamonds? her husband, the dress of a cotton broker? Ladies here think nothing of expending a large proportion of the profits of a year's trade in a few dresses. Of course we must suppose that this is in most cases done with the knowledge and approval of the husband. But an American's wife is the pig on which he hangs out his fortune; he dresses her up, that men may see his wealth; she is a walking advertisement of his importance, the 'marchioness' announcing to Broadway or Canal street that her husband is a man of money and station."

## MAJESTY.

The following compound of impudence, insolence, audacity, blackguardism and malice, appeared in the Union, the government organ, yesterday morning. Mr. Buchanan finding that decorous and gentlemanly language failed to persuade men to support the Leocompton fraud, is trying an experiment to see whether the barking and snarling of an editorial crew, trained in the famous kennel, the N. Y. Herald office, will not effect his purpose.

"Mr. Bell, of Tennessee, fearful, perhaps, lest the gentleman advantage over him with the black-republicans, proceeded—yesterday—on a more furious tirade against the Leocompton constitution. What is very unusual with Mr. Bell, he indicated pretty clearly in the first hour of his speech on which side of the question he stood; but this may be accounted for on the ground that he felt it necessary to be very decided in order to head off Mr. Crittenden, whom he doubtless regards as his rival for the black-republican presidential nomination for 1860. The Senate went into night session for the purpose of allowing Mr. Bell to proceed with his speech."

The speech of Mr. Bell was one of the most able, unanswerable, and statesmanlike that we ever listened to from him. The yelping of the administration, shows that his blows are felt.

## "AND IF"—AND "IF" SAID THE FARMER.

The Baltimore Clipper copies a paragraph from the speech of Mr. Nelson, who presided at the Baltimore Leocompton meeting, which was full of "ifs," and thus remarks upon it:

"These several 'ifs' are very well put by Mr. Nelson. If every thing has been fairly and legally conducted in Kansas—and if the constitution framed at Leocompton, and now submitted for the sanction of Congress, was legally enacted—and if the elections were fairly and legally conducted—why then, we should say that Kansas should be admitted into the Union with the Leocompton constitution. But the very matters in dispute are embraced within these 'ifs,' and those matters should be finally settled before voting upon the admission of that State into the Union. To ascertain the truth of these things, and to place nothing but facts before Congress, a committee of fifteen was raised in the House of Representatives, empowered to send for persons and papers, and directed to make a thorough examination into the whole matter. If the selection of the members of the committee, being given to the Speaker, he took care to place upon it a majority of persons who were resolved that there should be no investigation, and there has been none. Now, if, as is supposed by Mr. Nelson, the proceedings in Kansas were legal, and above board, why should this trick be practised to prevent investigation?"

## WE ARE GLAD OF IT.

The editor of the Atlanta, Georgia, National American, at the close of the first, and commencement of his second volume, thus speaks of his experience of the past, and his hopes of the future:

"To-day we commence the second volume—another year's publication—of the 'National American.' The toils, cares and anxieties of the year just closed admonished us to discontinue the paper, which has been the source of no little personal and pecuniary embarrassment. Our political friends would not listen to such a proposition, and at their urgent solicitation, coupled with the promise of more active assistance in the half of our circulation, we have concluded to continue the publication."

We are glad that the editor has come to this determination, and we most earnestly hope he will have no reason to regret it. The National American is one of the best papers we get; able, fearless and independent, and at the same time courteous and refined. It speaks out its thoughts like an honest man; and its thoughts are such as honest, intelligent men approve. Such a paper ought to be well sustained, and if our wishes could effect anything, it should be. We give you, brother American, our cordial God speed; go on, and prosper, and may your shadow never be less.

## THE REWARDS OF RASCALTY AND LOYALTY.

THE POWER OF PATRONAGE.—The usually well informed and candid Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia North American, shows some of the effects of the late Harrisburg Convention, as follows:

"The office of Quartermaster General, where army supplies are engaged, furnishes a Pennsylvania catalogue quite refreshing to contemplate. Mr. Ahi of Cumberland County, brother and partner of the Leocompton member of Congress, has a contract for mules which will make the evening of his days happy and easy. Mr. Jamison of Indiana County is nearly as well favored. Mr. White of Cambria is to furnish a young army of wagons for transportation. Mr. Arnold Plummer, who pulled some of the wisest at Hiram, is to have his son made receiver of public money in Minnesota. Mr. Hopkins, who also figured in the convention, gets his son into a land office in Kansas. There are troops of the degree and kind, who are blessing the State of Leocompton, and sanctifying those marplotes, Douglas, Walker & Co., for disturbing the harmony of the party. Gen. McCaslin, who held an Indian agency in Kansas, and for twenty-five years was one of the faithful in Pennsylvania, having been voted for by Mr. Buchanan for United States Senator within that time, had the temerity to write a letter here, noncommittal to the Leocompton test, whereupon his head fell into the basket, and that of Seth Clorier popped on to his shoulders, before any quick-witted gentleman could say Jack Robinson."

[From the Atlanta, Georgia, American.] Hitting the Nail on the Head.

Referring to the everlasting "nigger" question in Congress, the Tusculum North American hits the nail on the head in the following laconic and common sense manner:

"But, seriously, it is full time that southern men were looking about them, and coming to some determination as to the best method of putting a stop to this everlasting, never-ending, nigger agitation men in Congress. Halfways require two parties to quarrel, and if southern members would ignore the subject entirely in that body, as a matter with which Congress has no concern, it would be very difficult for the other side to keep up the agitation. But so long as the subject of slavery is a legitimate matter of debate in Congress, there will be plenty of demagogues, South as well as North, in that body, always ready to mount the hobby, and ride with whip and spur, without regard to consequences."

To this, the New Orleans Bulletin says:

"Let the southern people hereafter send such to Congress as will devote their time to matters of practical interest, and let the demagogues stay at home. It is time to stop this buffoonery, trickery, humbug, rant, and farce, and put a stop to the public sham that has become nauseated with it."

A VEXATIOUS—GREAT THORNE, on the 18th inst., wrote as follows from New Haven: "I have lived another year in this lately called miserable world. I really believe it is the best world since the fall of man. I have never felt so happy, so contented, so at ease, as I do now. I have never before had so much to do, and to-day I enter upon my eighty-fifth year. I walk without a cane, and out of my head without a hat or a wig. I never was drunk in my life, and never had a rheumatic pain. I voted three years ago when Washington was President. I lived twenty-two years under George III.; saw the whole reign of George IV., William IV., and Victoria thus far. I was intimate with Hamilton, Jay, Morris, old Governor Clinton, and other prominent actors in the revolution."

## DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

Most of the doings of both branches of Congress during the last week will be found in the speeches of which the week has been prolific on the Kansas question. The majority in the Senate being determined to get the minority to agree to take the vote on this question this week, continued the session of Monday until Tuesday morning—adjourning at a quarter past six o'clock A. M., but without forcing the anti-Leocompton Senators into the agreement demanded. The latter, however, agreed that the vote should be taken on Monday next.

The debate on this subject has been an unusually able one, and has attracted crowded galleries the whole time.

The same subject has occupied most of the time of the House. Mr. Montgomery, of Pa. (Douglas Dem.), introduced a bill on Monday last which provides for an extra session of the State legislature at Leocompton within twenty days after its passage, for the purpose of dividing the State into districts for the election of delegates to a convention, to which the Leocompton constitution shall be submitted for amendments, the amendments to be subsequently submitted to the people for adoption or rejection.

Mr. Montgomery moved that the bill be referred to the select committee of fifteen; pending which,

Mr. Stephens, of Ga., moved that it be referred to the Committee on Territories; which motion was not agreed to—yeas 94, nays 108. The bill was then referred to the select committee of fifteen.

The House has a portion of the time had under consideration an army bill reported by Mr. Quitman, from the committee on Military Affairs.

## WE READ OF RELIGIOUS PAPERS.

We read of religious papers, among the various denominations of Protestant Christians, but we are satisfied, that taking our country in its length and breadth, the people are growing worse. From the testimony which comes before us by every mail, we are forced to conclude that the standard of public virtue is sinking lower and lower every day, and that our boasted virtues are fast degenerating into low down licentiousness. As a nation, though less than one hundred years old, we are rapidly verging into crime, profligacy, and corruption. Our once mild and enlightened Republic—our boasted representative government, is now the most corrupt government in the civilized world. And the present administration of the General Government, is the most weak, profligate, and corrupt of any we have had, since the organization of the government. And we see no promise of any thing better in the future—whether we look to the difficult questions which are now occupying the public mind, or the corrupt agents by whom these questions are to be settled. As many as two Territories, Utah and Kansas, are in a state of open rebellion, calling for strong and expensive military expeditions, to stay the tide of bloodshed and revolution—all growing out of the weakness, mismanagement, and culpable remissness of the present administration. The North is arrayed against the South, and the South against the North, in fierce sectional hostilities. Our great lights, Clay, Webster, Calhoun, and others, who shone with such brilliancy in the halls of legislation, and who inspired the minds of our people with confidence in the stability of our institutions, and the perpetuity of our Union, have gone down to their graves.

We know no remedy for these evils, present and prospective. The real people are honest; they are the Warwick to make and unmake laws and governments—but they have been, and are still, deluded by their leaders, and by designing and corrupt men in power. We are fast going the way of former Republics, covered with disgrace, licentiousness, and corruption. We would not, if we could, preserve our government any longer, in such hands, and under such rule. Down with the stars and stripes—let the ships of State be given to the angry winds and waves—let her go down ingloriously into the deep, rather than see her disgraced and plundered by a set of thieves and perjured villains, who claim to be her officers and guardians!

And now all this national demoralization, may be traced to the leaders of a spurious Democracy, latter day Democrats, who have departed from the faith of true Democracy, and disgrace that sacred name. Their scramble for the spoils, their system of proscription, their intolerance of opinion, the Spoy vengeance with which they hunt down all opposed to them in sentiment, their false issues, their two faces, one for the North and another for the South, are working out nothing but corruption, and the ruin and overthrow of the laws and constitutions of the country. All this must, and ought to end, either in the disruption of that party, or in the destruction of the government, the noblest one ever founded by the wisdom, the virtue, and patriotism of man, and cemented by the blood of patriots!

But we sat out to give an incident of corruption which occurred at Washington between the Administration and certain parties in our own State. The "Cairo Mail Company," through Bremen & Patterson, we believe, bid off a daily line under Pierce's administration, "the Boats to be owned or controlled by the Company," and to run as Mail Packets between Cairo and New Orleans. This contract was bid off at \$227,000, and were to forfeit three times daily mail pay for each failure. The "Memphis & New Orleans Packet Company," a wealthy Company, owning six of the most reliable and expedient steamers on the Mississippi, bid what they could afford to perform the service for. This Company, perfectly responsible, lost the bid, and an irresponsible Company, having no boats, got the contract. For seven consecutive trips, the "Memphis & New Orleans Packet Company" carried the mails for the irresponsible Company, at \$300 per trip. The Company having the contract, made a business of picking up boats as they could, and these being trading or freight boats, they delayed at all the points, and failed to reach Memphis half their time. In order to get off the mail at New Orleans, they have been sending it on a faster Boat passing. This was going on, as it still is, under the administration of Pierce.

Now, the failures of this "Cairo Mail Company," brought upon their devoted heads fines to the amount of \$140,000, which Postmaster General, Campbell, with Roman firmness, refused to set aside. Gov. Jones, before his Senatorial term of service expired, got a bill passed requiring the matter of these fines to be reconsidered. Aaron V. Brown proved obstinate, and the case, under the management of

## BURNING OF A BARN AND OVER FIFTY HEAD OF CATTLE.

A shocking conflagration occurred, on Tuesday, on the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, about five and a half miles from Philadelphia proper, two miles from Hestonville, and two hundred yards from the line separating Philadelphia and Montgomery counties. The building destroyed was a very large stone barn belonging to Thomas F. Remington, Esq.

The barn contained fifty tons of hay, and seventy head of cattle. Four horses are included in this statement. The cattle was of all imported stock, and of the most valuable description, comprising bulls, cows and calves, of Devon and Durham breeds. Mr. Remington paid much attention to his stock, and his assortment was esteemed as among the best in the country.

The scene during the progress of the conflagration was at times almost terrific. The walls of the structure were of stone. As the doors burnt down, the cattle within were visible, writhing in the last agonies of death.

The total loss will not fall short of \$20,000. Some of the cattle were valued at \$1000 and \$3000 each. There was no insurance whatever. Two policies for \$15,000 each expired but a few weeks since, and were not renewed, although arrangements were in progress to that effect.

The origin of the conflagration is as yet a mystery. While it is possible that it may be rightfully attributed to spontaneous combustion, it is more than likely that it was the work of an incendiary. Bitter indignation has